

## 6.0 **Urban Design & Landscape**







## 6.0 Urban Design & Landscape

As the density of the campus core increases, so does the importance of having a well-functioning public realm. The public realm at the University of Lethbridge requires substantial upgrades to ensure it reflects the quality and stature befitting a destination institution. The Campus Master Plan objectives help create a network of outdoors public spaces that:

- Animate, invigorate and bring life to the campus;
- Enhance the educational experience with outdoor informal learning;
- Promote the sharing of ideas, creative expressions and interaction across disciplines;
- Support and nurture the physical and mental health of our students, faculty and staff;
- Instill pride and identity in the University of Lethbridge culture, showcasing it to all visitors;
- Seek community use and support; and
- Remain environmentally & economically sustainable



Fig. 6.1 | LIBRARY ROOF GROUNDS, DELFT UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, NETHERLANDS  
(Design Precedent)



Fig. 6.2 | BARNARD COLLEGE, NEW YORK (Design Precedent)



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### 6.1 | Gateways

A new gateway at Aperture Drive leading into the campus will announce the University's presence more clearly. This location will feature enhanced campus landscaping, consistent signage, and a signature identity element. The Gateway Bridge Structure at the east end of Aperture Drive will act as the front door to the campus core leading people into the Coulee-Quad. Aperture Drive will primarily act as a bus depot and turn around -- but will also serve to direct cars to the south residences or to the parking lots to the north. Gateways should mark primary ceremonial routes on campus that can support special events, processions, and commemorations. These include:

- **Furnishings:** All new projects flanking ceremonial routes will contribute furnishings to the adjacent public realm including lighting and banner arms along the length of the building façade;
- **Lighting:** Lighting of the ceremonial routes will be consistent with required profiles, lighting intensity and specifications;
- **Banners:** Banner arms will be provided on light poles along the main ceremonial route of Aperture Drive. Banner design on the ceremonial routes will be consistent with specifications. Generally, three types of banners should be used on campus: events and or conventions, seasonal banners and permanent university signature banners.



Fig. 6.3 | CAMPUS GATEWAY, SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY, NEW YORK (*Design Precedent*)



Fig. 6.4 | CAMPUS SIGNAGE, VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY (*Design Precedent*)





Fig. 6.5 | VIEW OF GATEWAY BUILDING AT APERTURE DRIVE



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### 6.2 | Pedestrian Priority Zone

The Campus Master Plan supports a pedestrian-friendly campus within the Campus Core. The Campus Master Plan reinforces the establishment of a pedestrian-priority zone and brings clarity to the definition and protection of the zone. Vehicular access in the pedestrian priority zone will be limited to emergency and security vehicles and vehicles with disabled access privileges. Existing roads in this zone will be re-engineered over time to emphasize the pedestrian nature of the area. It should be noted within this zone, there will be full vehicular access to all buildings for drop off and handicap access at all times.

The physical changes required to support the pedestrian priority zone are:

- Develop Pedestrian Boulevards so they provide a pleasant pedestrian greenway that encourages social interaction;
- Install passable barriers (e.g. telescopic bollards) in key locations around the pedestrian core to provide access for emergency, security and other authorized vehicles but limit the access by other vehicles. Roads within the pedestrian-priority zone have restricted access;
- Over time, re-engineer portions of the roads bordering or running through the pedestrian-priority zone to be “shared streets,” so the paving and other design features give visual cues for pedestrian priority;
- Roadways between the pedestrian priority zone and the campus perimeter will be re-engineered over time to be “shared streets” that better balance walking, cycling and other individual modes of travel with service vehicle access;
- Commuter vehicle use of these shared streets will be discouraged;
- The campus will use an enhanced and attractive pedestrian scale of lighting that will emphasize all public realm routes and at building entries so it is safe and easy to walk the campus at night.
- Most pathway connections across campus require upgrading to support a pedestrian-friendly and barrier-free campus. Examples of pathway improvements include repaving, way finding signage, installing benches, improving night lighting and providing some weather protection.

The campus will benefit from having a convenient and clearly defined network for the movement of service vehicles. Service vehicles would move through the pedestrian priority zone only at certain times of the day. Campus facilities will continue to review this network, with the goal of maintaining practical access while removing the need to drive through a well-used pedestrian priority zone within a prime coulee setting.

*A new gateway at Aperture Drive leading into the campus will announce the University's presence more clearly. This location will feature enhanced campus landscaping, consistent signage, and a signature identity element.*

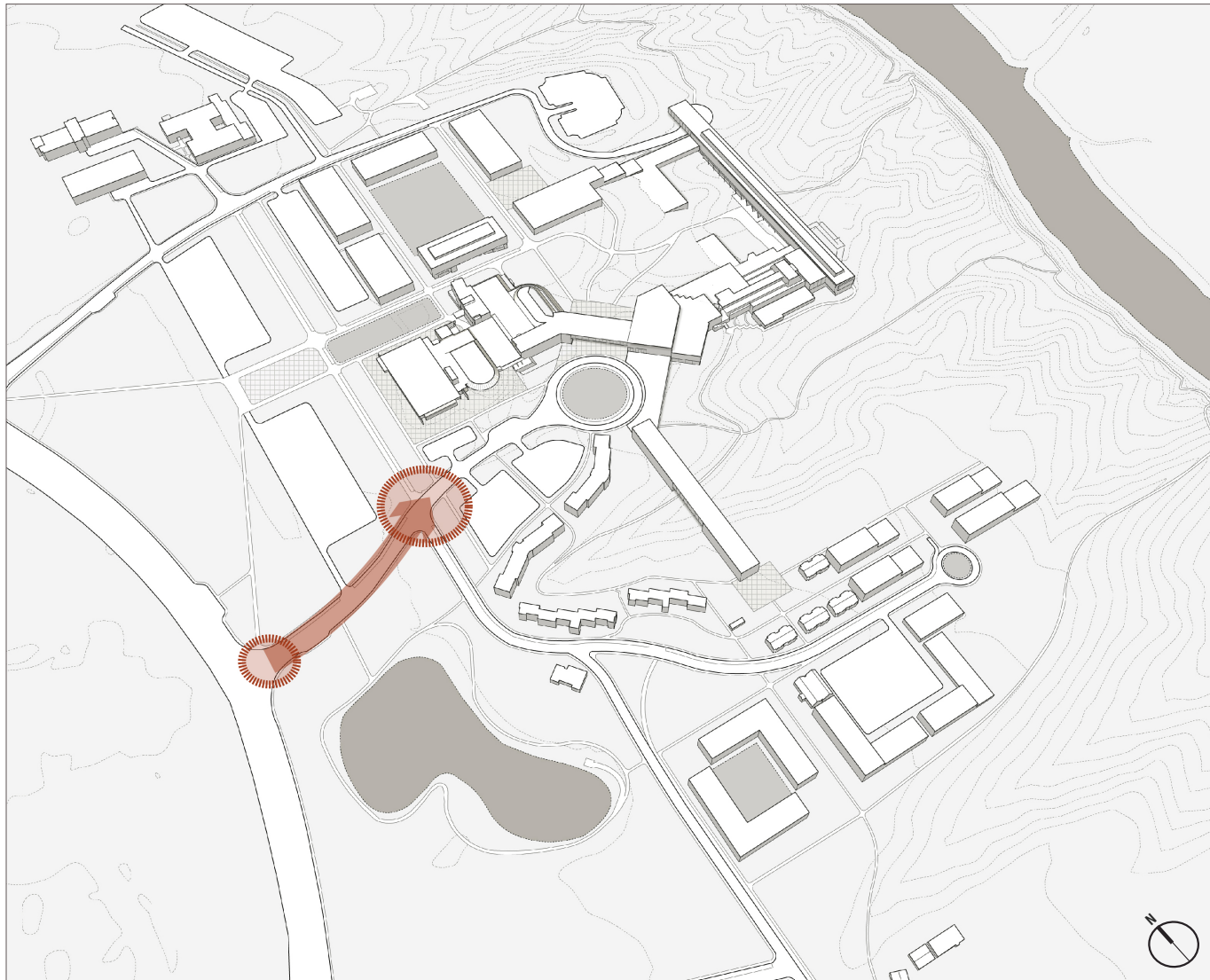


Fig. 6.6 | DEMONSTRATION PLAN  
(PERSPECTIVE VIEW):  
**CAMPUS ARRIVAL**

- Gateways 
- Primary Approaches 



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### 6.3 | Vistas

The University of Lethbridge has historically enjoyed spectacular views over the coulee landscape and of the Oldman River Valley. The proposed buildings benefit from having views in both directions (north and south) because of being sited at the edge of the topographical ridge. Vistas and panoramas of the surrounding landscape exist at a number of locations on campus. Every view is important and should be protected -- connecting the community's experience of being on campus with the dramatic natural context.

A. The following buildings have special views of the trestle train bridge and the Oldman River Valley to the north:

- Academic/Research Buildings framing the Coulee-Quad;
- Gateway Bridge Structure;
- University Hall Light-box (with views to the City of Lethbridge);
- Glazed Galleria renovation to LINC at the Coulee-Quad; and
- Select buildings framing the Prairie-Quad

B. The following buildings have views of the Oldman River Valley to the south:

- Oldman River Vista Building (at Aperture Drive);
- Residential Bridge Building; and
- All Residential Buildings



Fig. 6.7 | VIEW OF THE SOUTH COULEE FROM PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL LINK





Fig. 6.8 | VIEW OF THE PROPOSED COULEE QUAD FROM THE LIBRARY

Vistas and panoramas of the surrounding landscape exist at a number of locations on campus. These are the primary views of the surrounding landscape that exist on campus.



Fig. 6.9 | DEMONSTRATION PLAN  
(PERSPECTIVE VIEW):  
**PRIMARY VIEWS**

- Primary Views 
- Pedestrian Circulation 



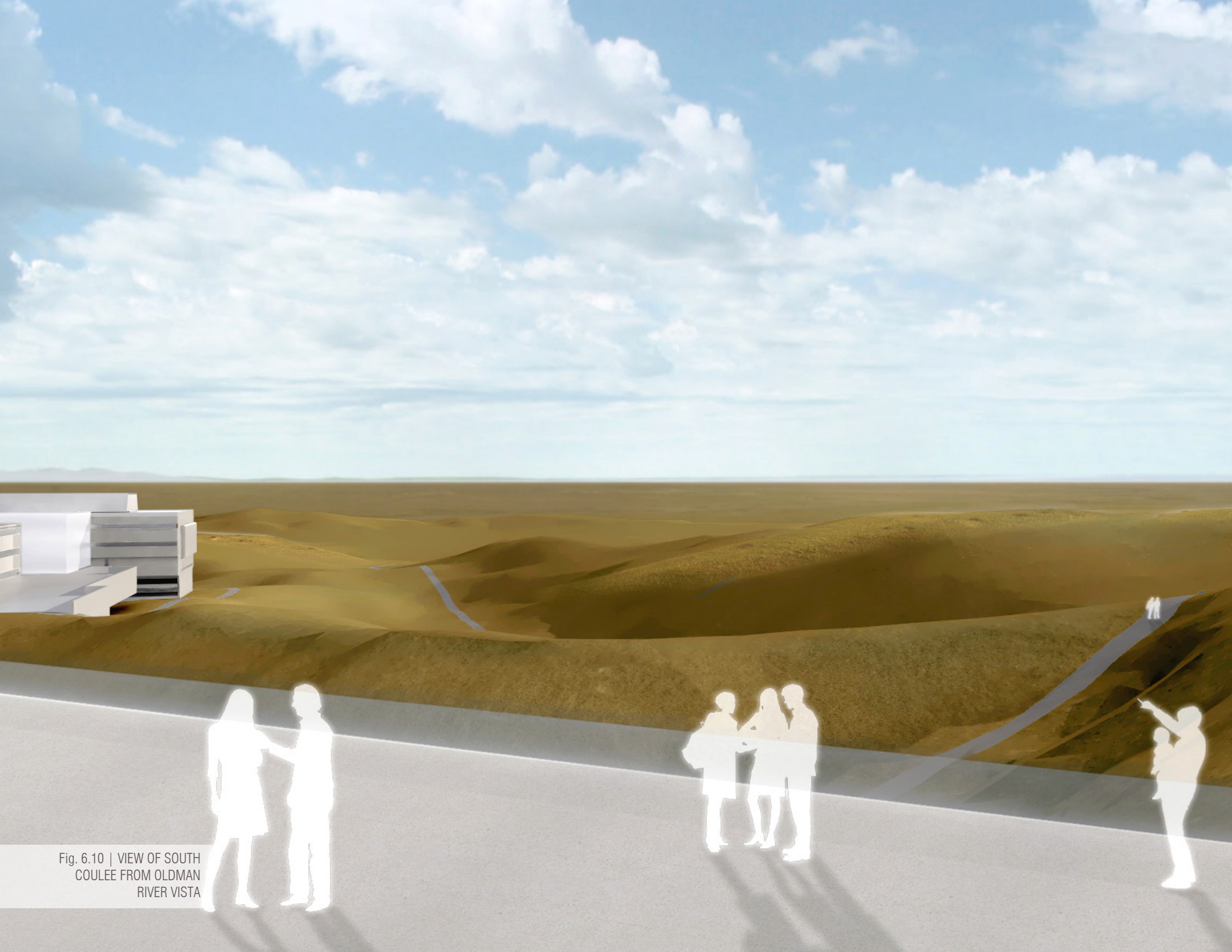


Fig. 6.10 | VIEW OF SOUTH  
COULEE FROM OLDMAN  
RIVER VISTA



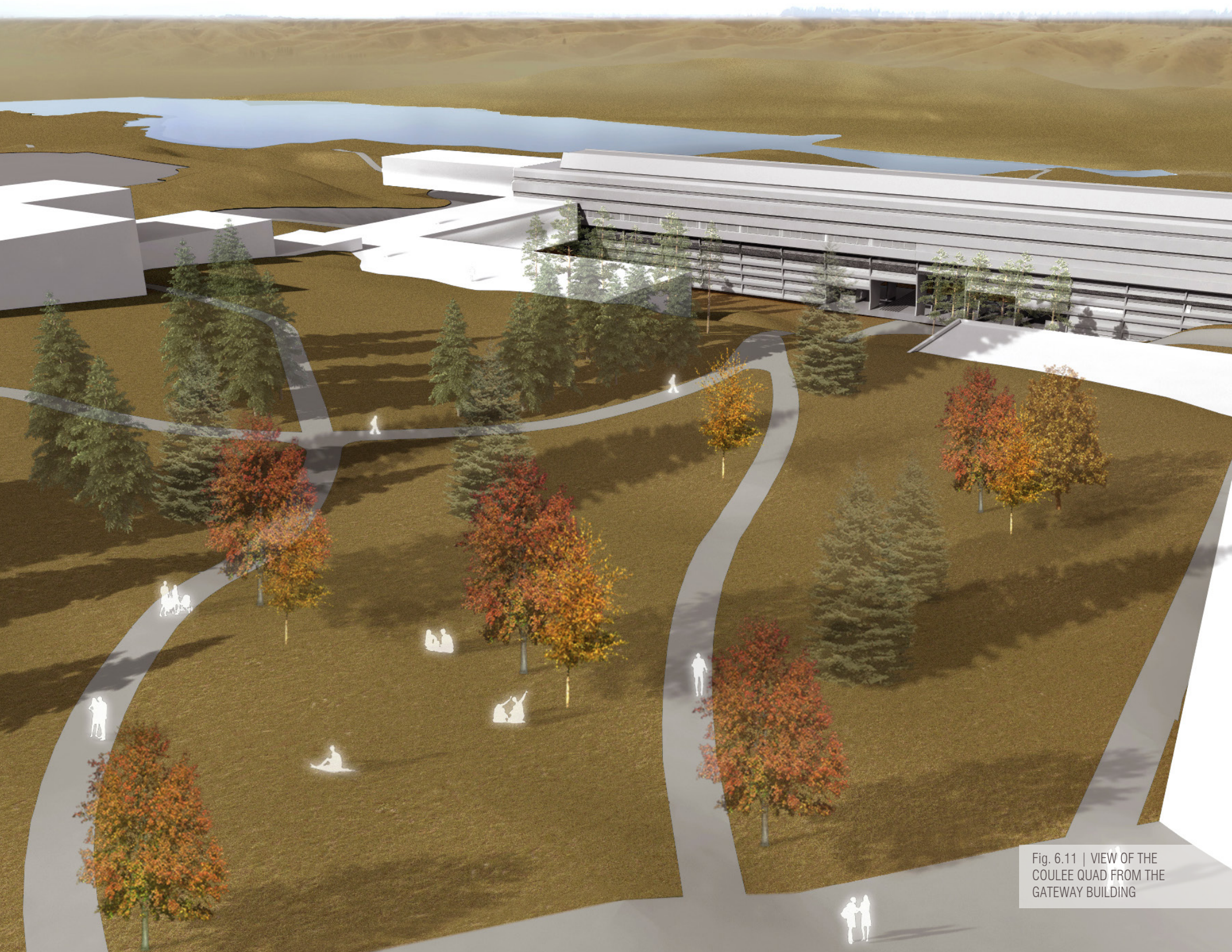
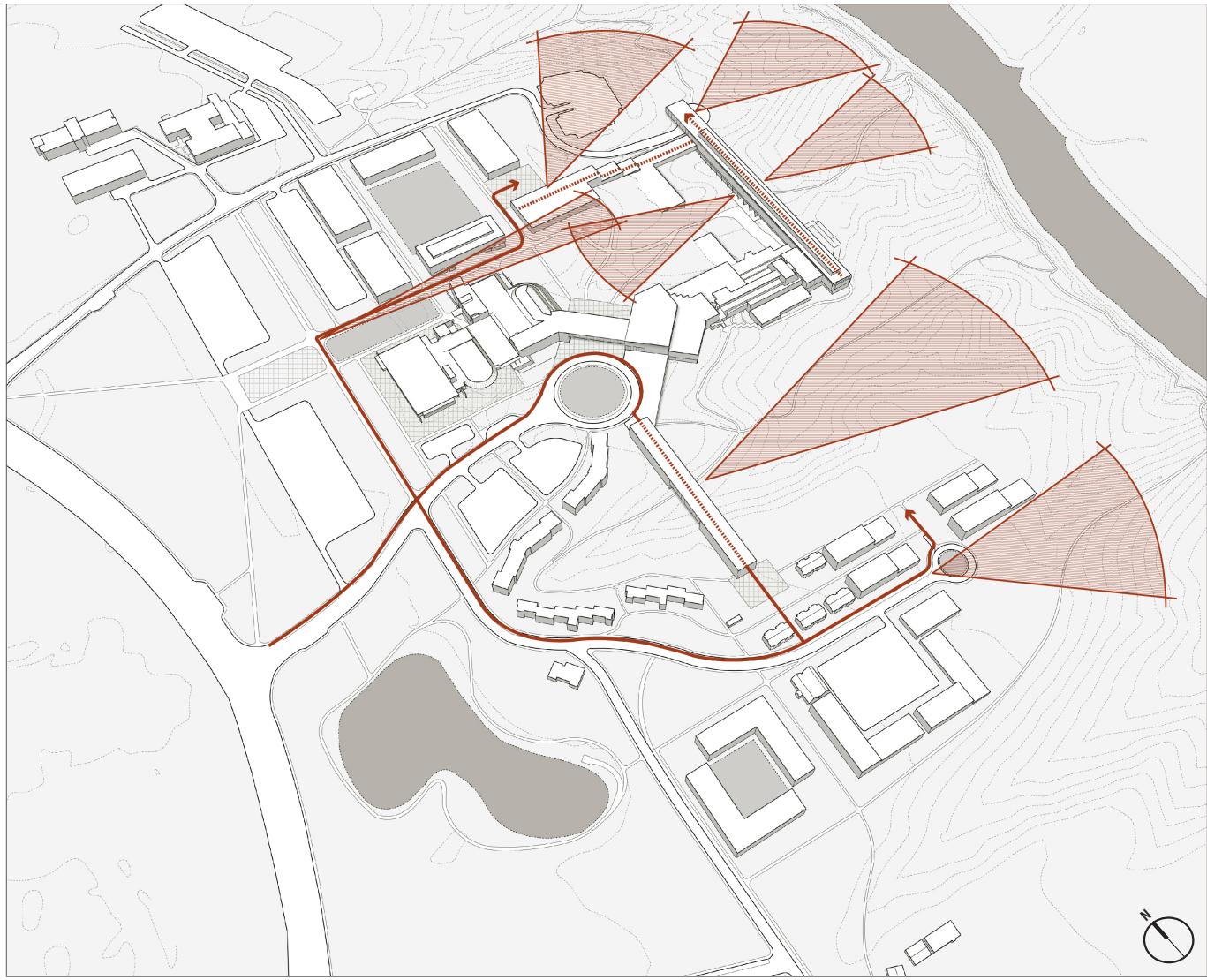


Fig. 6.11 | VIEW OF THE COULEE QUAD FROM THE GATEWAY BUILDING





*Surrounding views are important -- connecting the experience of being on campus within a dramatic natural context. These secondary views of the surrounding landscape that exist on campus must be protected.*

Fig. 6.12 | DEMONSTRATION PLAN (PERSPECTIVE VIEW): **SECONDARY VIEWS**

-  Secondary Views
-  Pedestrian Circulation

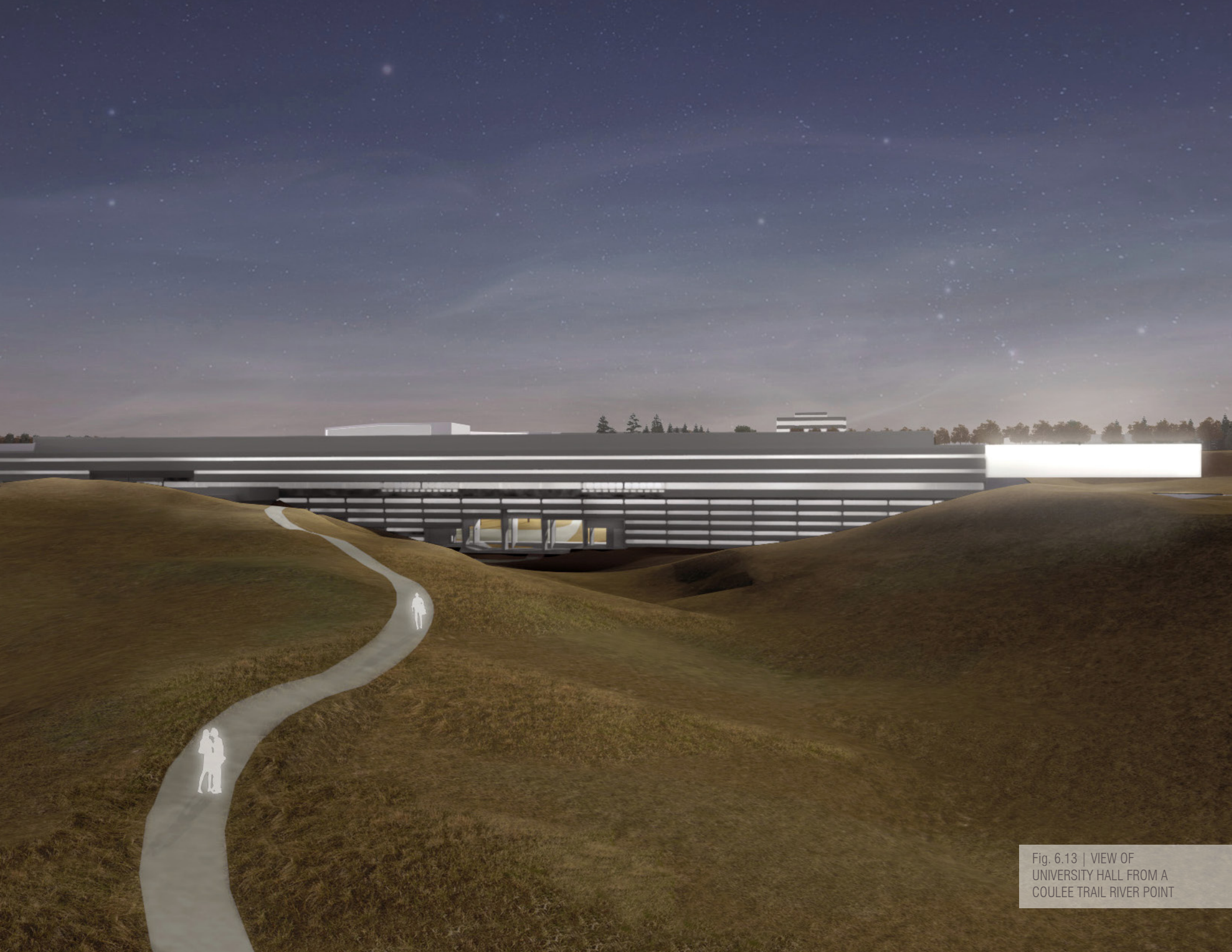


Fig. 6.13 | VIEW OF  
UNIVERSITY HALL FROM A  
COULEE TRAIL RIVER POINT



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### 6.4 | Open Space

The University of Lethbridge is a place where teaching, learning and research greatly benefit from being conducted in a visually appealing environment. It is a site that inspires the lives of those who learn, teach, research, work, live and visit here. The outdoor spaces that most people associate with the campus are its coulees and access to the Oldman River tucked in and beyond University Hall. This shared space for campus users plays a significant role in strengthening the University's identity and supporting campus life. All outdoor space should:

- Improve the public realm;
- Use the public realm as an academic resource;
- Create a barrier-free environment; and
- Identify an open space network

The Campus Master Plan illustrates an open space framework that emphasizes and celebrates the University's unique natural setting. A variety of multi-functional open space typologies capitalize on the diversity of landscape that exists on campus. Six key initiatives include:



- **The Coulee Quad:** The Coulee-Quad is a vertical commons;
- **The Prairie Quad:** The Prairie Quad is an outdoor commons space, surrounded by Markin Hall and the proposed academic buildings;

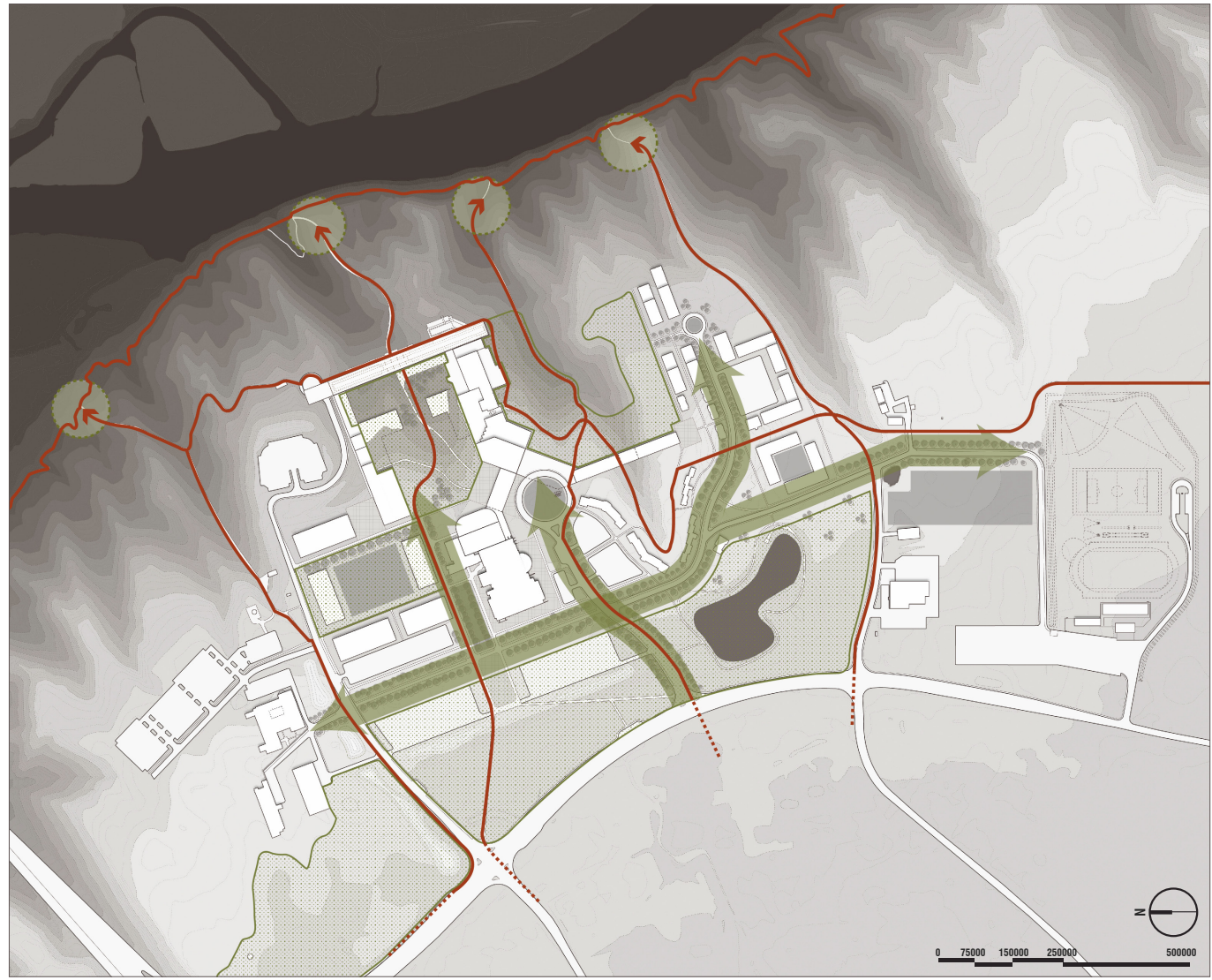
- **The Oldman River Vista:** The Oldman River Vista provides a protected naturalized area in the South Coulee;
- **The Coulee Trails and River Points:** The Coulee Trails bring the Lethbridge community down through campus to experience the extraordinary natural setting that it is a part of;
- **The Parkland:** The Parkland, located along University Drive West, creates a unified institutional presence along a major municipal roadway;
- **Treed Boulevards:** Tree-lined pedestrian boulevards are proposed to serve as an integrated landscape strategy for linking primary pedestrian pathways.

Both the Coulee-Quad and the Prairie-Quad offer greenery, quiet respite, and options for academic event programming. All new building projects must work together to support, shape, and nourish these academic commons and their effective interconnections to other campus open spaces. New buildings and renovations should not encroach upon these open spaces. These open spaces should be designed to facilitate a wide variety of outdoor activities. Design features should include: places for art, temporary exhibits, banners, walls for showing movies, places for barbecues, areas for student demonstrations, and other such programs that might emerge from consultations with both faculty and students. These outdoor areas should be designed to accommodate a range of groups and individuals and appropriate seating opportunities. Where food services form part of the building program it should be located close to these

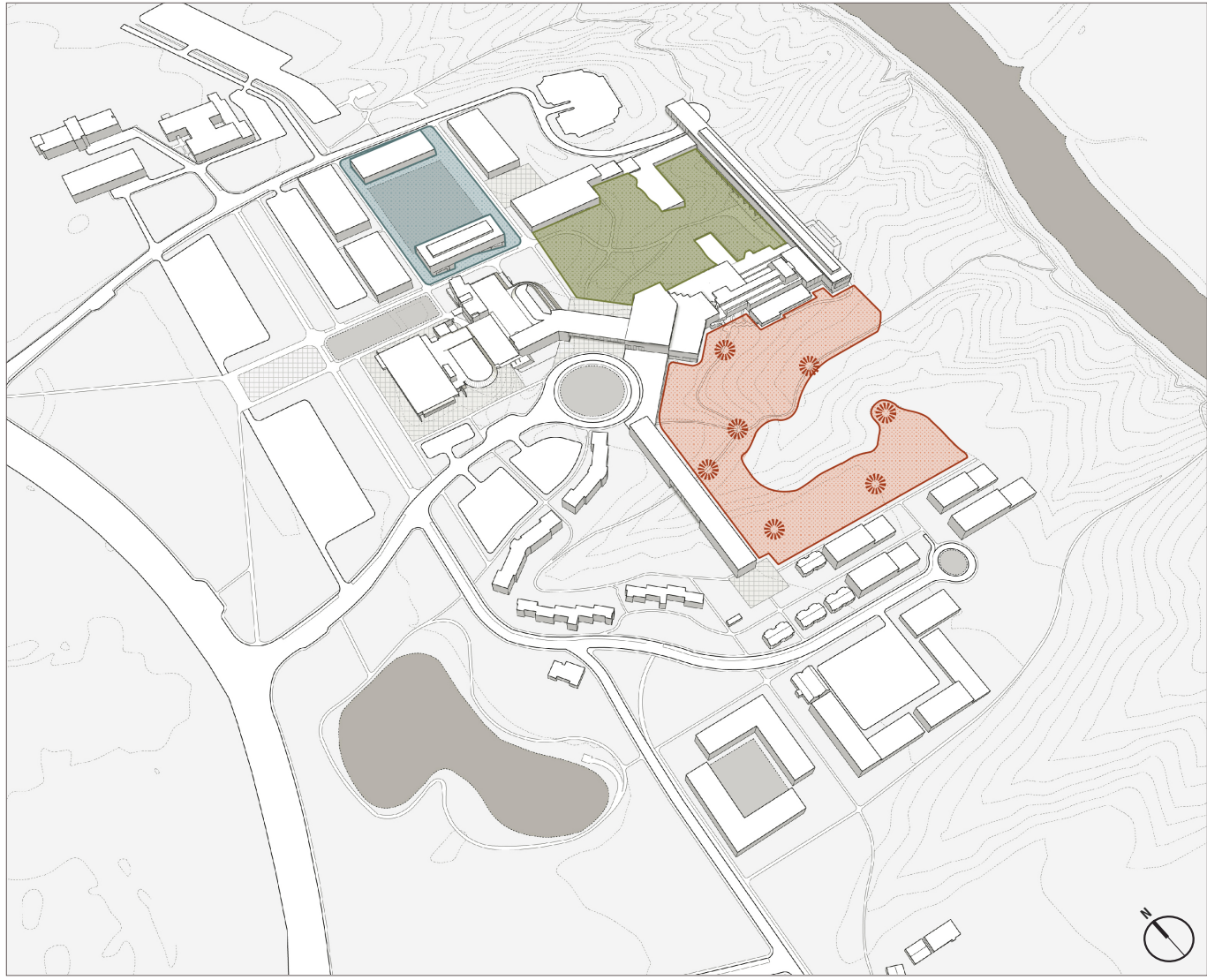
The outdoor spaces associated with the University of Lethbridge are its coulees and access to the Oldman River. This shared space for campus users plays a significant role in strengthening the university's identity and supporting campus life.

Fig. 6.14 | DEMONSTRATION PLAN:  
**NATURAL FEATURES**

- River Points 
- Natural Features 
- Treed Corridors 
- Coulee Trail System 







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Fig. 6.15 | DEMONSTRATION PLAN (PERSPECTIVE VIEW):  
**LANDSCAPE INITIATIVES**

-  Coulee Quad
-  Prairie Quad
-  Oldman River Vista
-  Panorama Points





Fig. 6.16 | AERIAL VIEW OF PRAIRIE AND COULEE QUAD



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outdoor areas to facilitate access. It is also recommended that there be readily accessible smaller-scale plazas located at key areas throughout the campus.

The open space network throughout campus is important to the University's beauty, identity, and function. It should be well-designed, beautifully planted, safe, and rejuvenating with ample seating, sunlight, and shelter for the community's daily use. As such, all open space must:

- Support the intellectual aspirations of its community;
- Build on a fundamental framework of social and environmental amenity;
- Be vibrant and encourage activity;
- Relate buildings to landscapes and create a logical sequence of movement;
- Provide shelter and active travel between buildings;
- Be safe, secure and accessible;
- Respect and engage with the unique landscape context; and
- Maintain and enhance a central unified open space as a cohesive element on campus



Fig. 6.17 | A MULTI-PURPOSE PEDESTRIAN PLAZA AT UCLA, CA (*Design Precedent*)



Fig. 6.18 | BRIGHTLY LIT OUTDOOR GATHERING SPACE AT FOOTHILL COLLEGE, CA (*Design Precedent*)



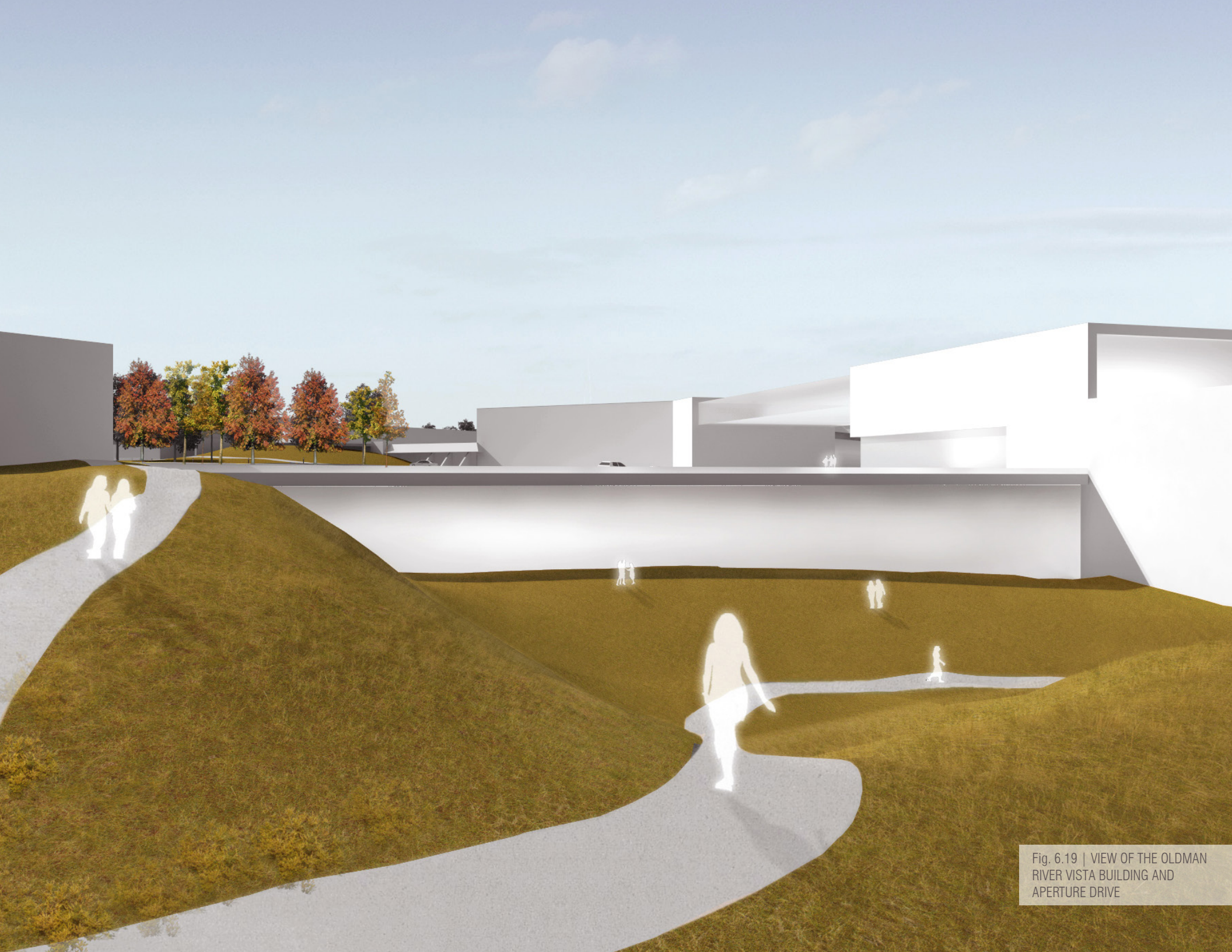


Fig. 6.19 | VIEW OF THE OLDMAN RIVER VISTA BUILDING AND APERTURE DRIVE





The Campus Master Plan illustrates an open space framework that emphasizes and celebrates the University's unique natural setting. A variety of multi-functional open space typologies capitalize on the diversity of landscape that exists on campus.

Fig. 6.20 | DEMONSTRATION PLAN (PERSPECTIVE VIEW):  
**ADDITIONAL LANDSCAPE INITIATIVES**

-  River Points
-  Treed Corridors
-  Coulee Trail System
-  Parkland





Fig. 6.21 | AERIAL VIEW OF RESIDENTIAL VILLAGE AND THE SOUTH COULEE



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### 6.5 | Building Interface

Future development should enhance the campus environment while making efficient use of land within the campus core. The Campus Master Plan strives to:

- Balance the desire for consolidation and the desire to connect to the outdoor environment;
- Enliven and shape spaces between and within buildings;
- Strive to achieve the appearance of a complete campus at each phase of the plan; and
- Ensure the adjacent community is addressed in scale and presence while presenting a prominent and inviting image of an academic institution.

University development must be sensitive in its development footprint given its proximity to the coulee landscape and Oldman River. In addition to sensitivity towards existing context, new buildings must also be thoughtful in the creation of new context. Each building project is responsible for creating the open space that surrounds it.



Fig. 6.22 | SMALL QUAD AT BRYN ATHYN COLLEGE, PA (*Design Precedent*)



Fig. 6.23 | UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO SCARBOROUGH CAMPUS - SCIENCE BUILDING, MORIYAMA AND TESHIMA ARCHITECTS (*Design Precedent*)



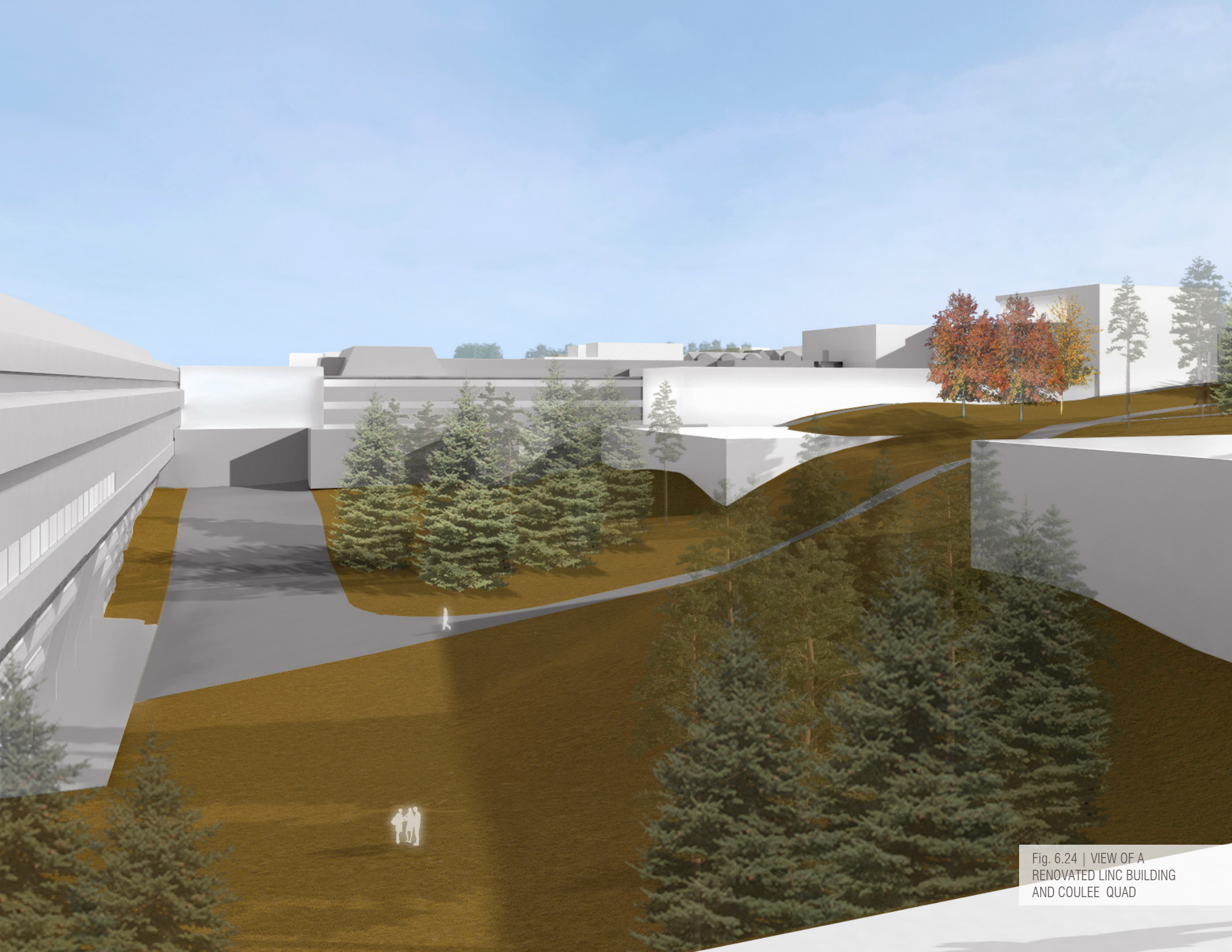


Fig. 6.24 | VIEW OF A  
RENOVATED LINC BUILDING  
AND COULEE QUAD



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### 6.6 | Landscape Framework

The Landscape Framework presents an opportunity to introduce visual cohesiveness and a sense of place on the campus. These generic guidelines contribute to campus cohesion at a campus-wide level reinforcing the strength and legibility of important corridors and large outdoor spaces. It is recommended additional more detailed studies be commissioned.

- Tree planting for all primary and secondary streets must be consistent. These choreographed selections will, over time, bring beauty and consistency to the campus while allowing for a range of seasonal colour, scale, and local biodiversity. A consistent tree planting strategy at the campus gateway along Aperture Drive and alongside all significant spines will enhance place making and way-finding on campus;
- All campus areas will include signature species as a means of unifying the campus landscape;
- Plant selection should give careful consideration to characteristics during the regular academic session. Elements to consider: fall colour, branching pattern, bark texture and colour, flowering period and colour, fragrance, coniferous or deciduous, and leaf out time in spring;
- Green setbacks must be respected along all boulevards;
- The landscape and building design should be conceived and designed as a single composition; and
- The use of non-native plants is discouraged.

### 6.7 | Sustainability

The Campus Master Plan supports fundamental sustainability goals. The sustainability goals achieve more sustainable, efficient, effective and convenient land use distribution patterns; integrated approaches to managing open space, energy and infrastructure systems; a pedestrian and cycling friendly campus and a socially engaging environment that fosters a thriving academic community.

Some key techniques include:

- More student housing will improve academic engagement, reduce commuting and improve personal safety by having more people and eyes on pathways within a pedestrian friendly campus;
  - Public realm improvements should integrate Campus Master Plan infrastructure and transportation systems such as cycling, walking trails and sustainable storm-water management features. This integration allows for the multiple use of valuable open space network;
  - Greener buildings and infrastructure will be designed and constructed to higher sustainability standards to reduce emissions, energy and water consumption and maintenance requirements; and improve livability; and
  - A compact campus focuses new facilities in infill locations that maximizes the economic and environmental benefits of shared infrastructure and reduces greenhouse gas emissions.
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Fig. 6.25 | VIEW OF THE COULEES IN FALL



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### 6.8 | Art

The University of Lethbridge has an extensive art collection and renowned art program. It has the ability to host an expanded, high-quality public outdoor art collection. An outdoor art collection should support The Campus Master Plan vision -- bringing meaning and interest to the campus landscape; acknowledging the University's commitment to artistic trends and movements. Places for outdoor art include:

- Prominent art locations on campus will be reserved for artworks of considerable distinction carrying meaning for the whole campus community (e.g. Aperture Drive, Coulee-Quad, Prairie-Quad, South Coulee);
  - Community level artworks will be encouraged to locate within internal, smaller public spaces;
  - Art is encouraged in locations visible from campus social spaces or main vehicle and pedestrian routes (e.g. east-west pedestrian boulevard terminating at Turcotte Hall);
  - A sculpture garden will be encouraged in the Coulee-Quad as a prominent display area for a number of art works;
  - A majority of the outdoor art pieces will be concentrated within a five minute walking distance of the campus core to increase the collection's impact and accessibility to the campus community;
  - All outdoor art will be sited in a manner consistent with prominence and significance of the piece and the prominence or character of the campus setting;
  - Outdoor art will be located in a high visibility zone at Innovation Place (where the pedestrian boulevard intersects Valley Road);
  - All formal collection works will be installed where they can be seen by the broader campus community -- with the use of accessible pathways or viewing points from which to enjoy the art; and
  - The meaning and origin of outdoor art pieces will be interpreted and available to people using high-quality, well-placed information panels and/or plaques.
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Fig. 6.21 | EXISTING  
CAMPUS PUBLIC ART



